

NWEP Minutes

June 26, 2008

Meeting called to order @ 7:10pm

Introduction – 14 people in attendance

Jonathan's Presentation (special guest)

- A few years ago Jonathan brought the GAP to city hall and had council ask staff to investigate it
- GAP was designed to address climate change and how the city could get involved
- FCM climate change agreement, New West was one of the first cities to sign on in 1996, however until recently we were still at step zero
 - The city has recently finished steps 1, 2, and 3, and is now moving on to stage 4
 - Major component is land use, how they live, how the city is designed, and how they get around, encouraging higher density new transit
 - Downtown action plan is one of the core pieces because the downtown area has Skytrain running through
 - Managing green zones and agricultural land, NW doesn't have very much but must take a strong voice regionally to ensure those areas in other municipalities are protected
 - Industrial land has been converted in to big box stores in the past, which is not a good land use, NW is working to maintain the existing industrial land
 - City is working on a parking study, how to update with items such as bike storage, coop cars, less parking if in proximity to Skytrain
 - City was looking at Vancouver style smaller parking stalls, however council has resisted and is instead looking towards Abbotsford's standards
 - Central Valley Greenway, which will connect Quayside all the way to Science World
 - Upgrades to 12th Street sidewalks to make them more pedestrian friendly
 - City has adopted a pedestrian charter that emphasizes walking as the primary mode of transportation, possibly a good tool in lobbying in the future
 - City has done a review of energy efficiency projects for city facilities, all projects would come to over \$1 million, but most projects have 3-4 year paybacks
 - New West has made a new arrangement with BC Hydro to bring power smart programs that were not previously available in the city to city residents and businesses
 - City implementing a Smart Growth checklist for developments, city is looking to make this checklist mean more when it comes to development projects
 - New West has opportunities for organic waste diversion, the city now does yard waste pickup, composter and worm bin programs
 - Unfortunately most of these programs don't target multi-family homes and NW has a very large multi-family population
 - City will be upgrading garbage trucks soon, and direction has been given to purchase vehicles that can accommodate organic waste in the long term

Vladimir's Update of Anti-idling by-law

- Started in January, suppose to be the project for the year
- However because of the election the year would have been shorter
- On step 2 out of 5, passed the Environmental Advisory Committee and voted on by city council
- What council passed on Monday was a motion to request city staff to start drafting a by-law, no ETA on this step
- Once this comes back then council must pass it in to law
- Steps 1 & 2 were not controversial, however when the by-law comes back to council there could be resistance
- Vladimir and company will work with staff to draft the by-law to bring it back to council, and will work to make sure the original concept is not diluted too much
- Vladimir hopes the drafting process can be done within a few months
- Vladimir will contact staff after the long weekend to discuss timelines and what steps we can get involved with
- The 15 page package prepared by Vladimir will hopefully assist staff in expediting the process
- The province is getting more involved with anti-idling and has hired 12 no-idling ambassadors for the summer; this may be extended all year around
- Can hopefully get help from the ambassadors for step 5, education and enforcement
- The city doesn't need a by-law to mandate city vehicles don't idle; a city policy could be passed
- The city could use Vancouver's and North Vancouver's by-laws as templates
- Brainstorm idling hot spots, as places where if a by-law is passed where the city could focus with enforcement

General Discussion

Continuing of discussion: official group registration / organization

- Relatively easy, \$100 and 5 people to sign the people
- Can be done in 30 days
- There would have to be a discussion about the pros and cons of registering
- Benefit is we could get money from the city, or other grants
- If we went for non-profit status, we'd be able to offer tax receipts, however no more than 10% of your activities would be related to lobbying
- The restrictions on charitable status are such that we shouldn't head down this route at this time
- The question is, what could we do with money that we're not doing now? Do we need money?
- A motion was put forward to form a society, and was passed
- Ken and Tristan will investigate and email the group with the next step

Sub-Committee Presentations

Transportation

- Nothing to report, still waiting for NW Station crosswalk
- Push for a framework policy for the City with regard to vehicle purchase? (idea from the NW Fire Chief)

Energy

- Some members attended the Metro Vancouver waste strategy meeting, very informative
- A press release was put together about WTE based on the assumption this plan was going to go ahead
- Marshall had an opinion piece in The Record on WTE
- Article/press release based on three points
 - Incineration should not be used as a replacement for recycling
 - Transportation of waste will be an issue if one of these three or more regional WTE plans is built in NW
 - We have a river and railway that connect with things such as the Kent transfer station Vancouver
 - What will happen with this power, will it be fed straight in to the grid or should NW look at the rights to this power as locally produced power
- Peter started putting together a very well researched PowerPoint on WTE technology
- Eventually we'd like to have a show we can take on the road to residents' associations about WTE
- Matthew was on CBC Radio's On The Coast Monday to talk about WTE, pushing diversion first before WTE
- July 9th, Metro Vancouver is holding a Waste Committee Meeting

Agriculture

- Nothing to update from the last meeting, everyone is too busy growing vegetables

Upcoming Events / Opportunities

- What are our goals from these events? Get more members? Educate the public?
- We need to get people committed (to events) before we begin planning
- FraserFest is coming up (Marshall will take lead? Will work for Rivershed)
- Show and Shine – good place to promote anti-idling?
- Quayside Festival and Sidewalk Sale
- Farmer's Market
- Candidate Survey for municipal election
- Zero waste picnic
- Outdoor movie night

Action Items

- Cam and Tristan looking in to becoming a society
- Tristan will create a list of events
- Farmer's Market Organization (who? To chat list)
- Candidate survey will be worked on
- Show and Shine – David Maidman will organize it
- Tristan will look at creating a public education sub-committee

Next meeting in September